

### REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 11, 13-18, 20-32, 34, 36-47 and 49-54 remain pending in the application. Claims 8, 11, 13-18, 20-25, 36-47 and 49-54 are allowed. Claims 6, 9, 10, 12, 19, 33, 35 and 48 are cancelled.

### Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-5, 7, 26-32 and 34 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent Publication No: 2002/0080887 to Jeong in view of US Patent No.: 5,351,087 to Christopher. Applicant respectfully traverses.

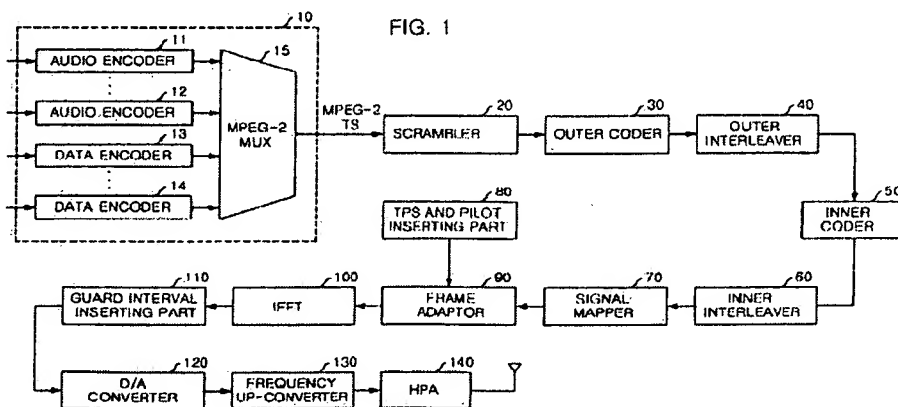
Claims 1 and 26 variously recite:

[1] ... multiplexing content of the plurality of buffers from the bit stream ...

[26] . a multiplexer communicatively coupled to said plurality of buffers ...

The Office Action avers that the Jeong discloses all of the limitations of claims 1 and 26 except an interleaver. (Office Action, Page 5, Lines 3-6). The Office Action then asserts that Christopher teaches an interleaver that is a multiplexer making it obvious for a person skilled in the art to substitute Christopher's "multiplexer" for the interleaver in the apparatus of Leong. (Office Action, Page 5, Lines 11-14).

Applicant respectfully points out that this proposed combination still does not arrive at the claimed invention. The claims clearly require that the multiplexing function be performed on the content of a plurality of buffers. This feature is not present in the proposed combination and this deficiency can be seen clearly by studying Figure 1 of Leong (reproduced below).



Leong shows two interleavers; an outer interleaver 40 and an inner interleaver 60. The Office Action does not identify which interleaver 40, 60 should be replaced with a Christopher "multiplexer" in the proposed combination. In either case, the proposed combination fails to disclose or suggest the plurality of buffers as recited in the claims.

Specifically, Leong shows a single MPEG transport stream (TS) feeding scrambler 20. (Leong, Figure 1). Leong teaches that after scrambling, the outer encoder 30 applies a Reed Solomon encoding to the TS before outer interleaver 40 performs convolutional byte -wise interleaving on the TS. (Leong, Figure 1, Paragraph 53). Leong also teaches that inner encoder 50 and inner interleaver 60 perform convolutional encoding and trellis coding on the TS. (Leong, Figure 1, Paragraph 53).

Saliently, Leong's interleavers 40, 60 do not interact with a plurality of buffers as recited in claims 1 and 26. Thus, substituting a multiplexer for either one of the interleavers 40, 60 as proposed in the Office Action fails to arrive at the invention of claims 1 and 26. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the Office Actions proposed combination falls short of establishing prima facie evidence of obviousness. This makes claims 1 and 26 patentable over the proposed combination.

Claims 2-5, 7, 27-32 and 34 depend from claims 1 and 26 and therefore are patentable for the at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 26.

### CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and accordingly requests that the application be passed to issue. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner call the undersigned if the Examiner determines that any additional issues remain that may be resolved through a telephone conference

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

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